

Claim ~~58~~³². A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, wherein said framework includes horizontal beams that coincide with and define a circle and a cross-section of said framework perpendicular to said central axis is substantially circular.

Claim ~~59~~³³. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, comprising partitions disposed between said feeding troughs, said partitions having such dimensions which are sufficient to prevent animals at adjoining feeding troughs from disturbing each other when using their corresponding troughs for eating or drinking.

Claim ~~60~~³⁴. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachably fitted to said framework.

Claim ~~61~~³⁵. A column in accordance with Claim ~~60~~³⁴, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachable from said framework without a requirement that tools be used to effect such detachments.

Claim ~~62~~³⁶. A column in accordance with Claim ~~60~~³⁴, wherein said partitions and said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim ~~63~~³⁷. A column in accordance with Claim ~~59~~³³, wherein said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim ~~64~~³⁸. A column in accordance with Claim ~~59~~³³, wherein said partitions in said feeding troughs are detachably connected to said framework and to each other.

Claim ~~65~~³⁹. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, wherein each of said feeding troughs comprises a metering device which is connected to said framework.

Claim ~~66~~⁴⁰. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, wherein said reservoirs have similar configurations and are interchangeable.

Claim ~~67~~⁴¹. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, which comprises a weighing device which is interconnected to said framework for weighing materials delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim ~~68~~⁴². A column in accordance with Claim ~~67~~⁴¹, wherein said weighing device is movable about said central axis.

Claim ~~69~~⁴³. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, which comprises a metering device which is disposed between at least one of said reservoirs and at least one of said feeding troughs.

Claim ~~70~~⁴⁴. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, comprising at least one storage room and a metering device operatively associated therewith.

Claim ~~71~~⁴⁵. A column in accordance with Claim ~~70~~⁴⁴, wherein said metering device comprises mixing means for mixing materials present in said storage room.

Claim ~~72~~⁴⁶. A column in accordance with Claim ~~70~~⁴⁴, wherein said metering device is rotatable about said central axis.

Claim ~~73~~⁴⁷. A column in accordance with Claim ~~72~~⁴⁶, comprising a drive unit for moving said metering device about said central axis.

Claim ~~74~~⁴⁸. A feeding column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, comprising separation means for removing materials unfit for consumption by said animals from feed delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim ~~75~~⁴⁹. A column in accordance with Claim ~~74~~⁴⁸, wherein said separation means comprises at least one magnet.

Claim ~~76~~⁵⁰. A column in accordance with Claim ~~75~~⁴⁹, wherein said magnet is an electromagnet.

Claim ~~77~~⁵¹. A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, comprising identification means for identifying individual animals, said identification means being operatively associated with each said feeding trough.

Claim ~~78~~⁵². A column in accordance with Claim ~~57~~³¹, which is mobile.

Claim ~~79~~⁵³. An apparatus for automatically feeding animals which comprises a circular framework disposed about a vertical axis which has on its upper aspect a storage house that contains a plurality of reservoirs, a plurality of delivering means interconnected to said framework disposed below said storage house, a plurality of vertical partitions extending radially from said framework, a plurality of side-by-side feeding troughs disposed below said storage house and between individual partitions, said feeding troughs being arranged in a circle around said axis, said partitions extending sufficiently beyond said feeding troughs to provide individual side-by-side stalls arranged in a circle around said axis for each feeding trough, animal identification means operatively associated with each said feeding trough, a computer memory connected to said animal identification means wherein the nutrition needs for each animal feeding at said feeding trough is stored in said memory, weighing means operatively associated with said feeding trough for determining the eating speed of an animal at each respective feeding trough, said reservoirs containing different feeds to provide fodder of different nutritional values, said reservoirs and said delivery means being controlled by said weighing means to deliver the amounts and types of fodder from said reservoirs to meet the nutrition needs of the animal at the feeding trough as identified by said identification means, each of said partitions, said troughs and said reservoirs respectively being substantially identical and being interconnected with said framework so that they are readily detachable therefrom.

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